





The City of San Antonio's Code Enforcement Services Department

Damage Assessment Team

A photograph showing the aftermath of a flash flood. A silver car is overturned on its side on a paved street. In the background, a two-story house has a roof partially covered in debris and a large section of the roof is missing or damaged. A tall metal fence stands behind the car. The ground is littered with trash and debris.

San Antonio sits in what is known as flash flood alley.

Due to varying weather cycles, storms tend to stall out or even strengthen thru out the south central Texas region.

The National Weather Service has identified Central Texas as the most flash-flood prone area in the United States.

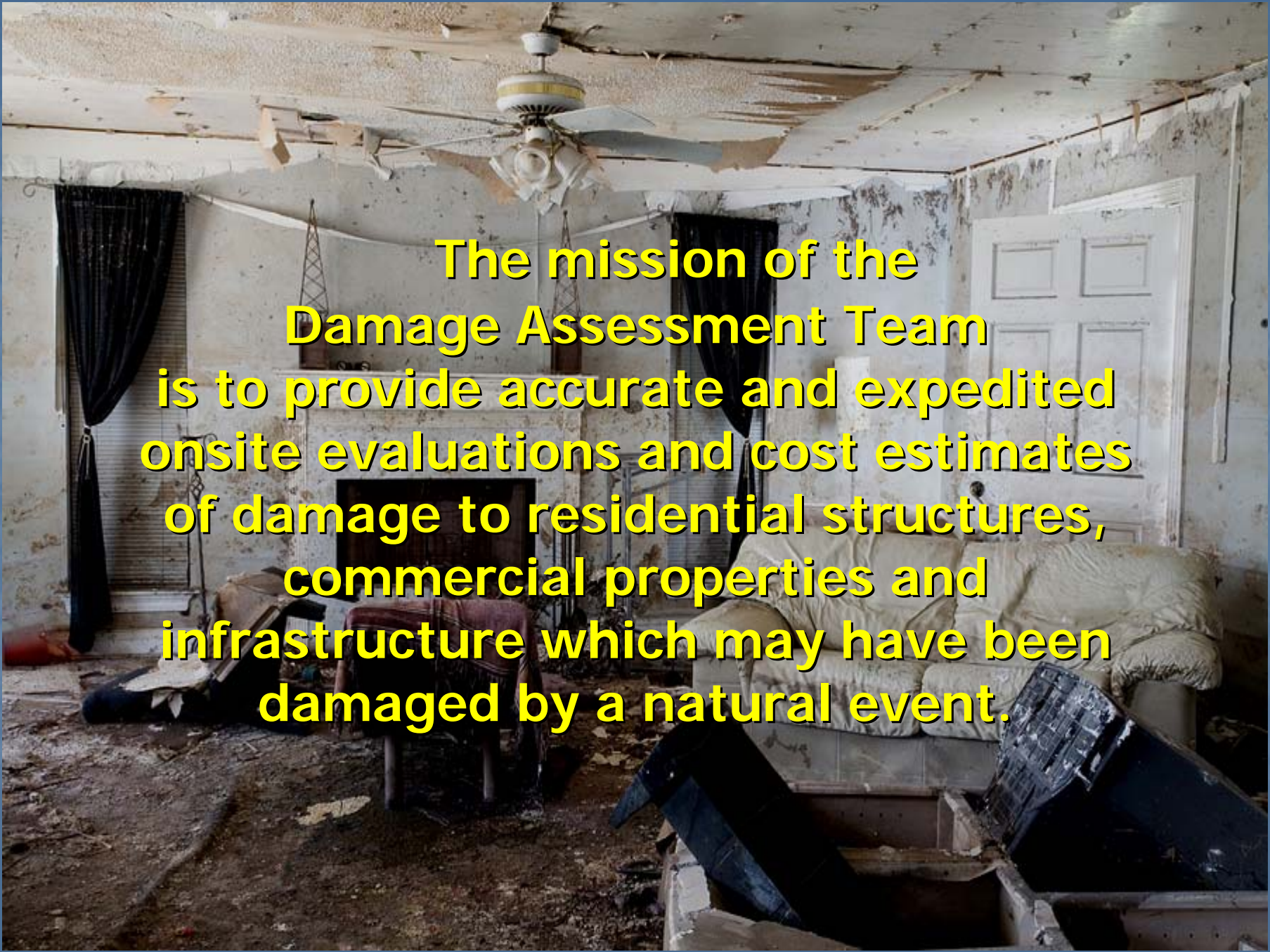
Recent Natural Disasters that have occurred in San Antonio

- July 25, 2008 a category EF-0 Tornado with winds from 65-85 miles per hour blew thru the southeast side of San Antonio, caused extensive damage over a 5 block area.
- July 5, 2002 Texas floods kill 5. Parts of San Antonio and Bexar county received as much as 15 - 24 inches of rain.
- Heavy rains over south Texas during the weekend of October 17, 1998 led to widespread and deadly flooding. A total of 11 people died during this event, and property damage estimates approached three quarters of a billion dollars.

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a light pink t-shirt and a red patterned skirt, is riding a black bicycle through murky floodwaters. She is looking forward and slightly to the left. The water is deep, reaching up to the girl's thighs. In the background, there are lush green trees and some buildings, including one with an orange wall. The scene is set in a rural or semi-rural area.

The floods and disasters that have occurred over the last ten years have spelled out the need for our department to assign and train a dedicated team to be prepared to help in the event of any natural disaster.

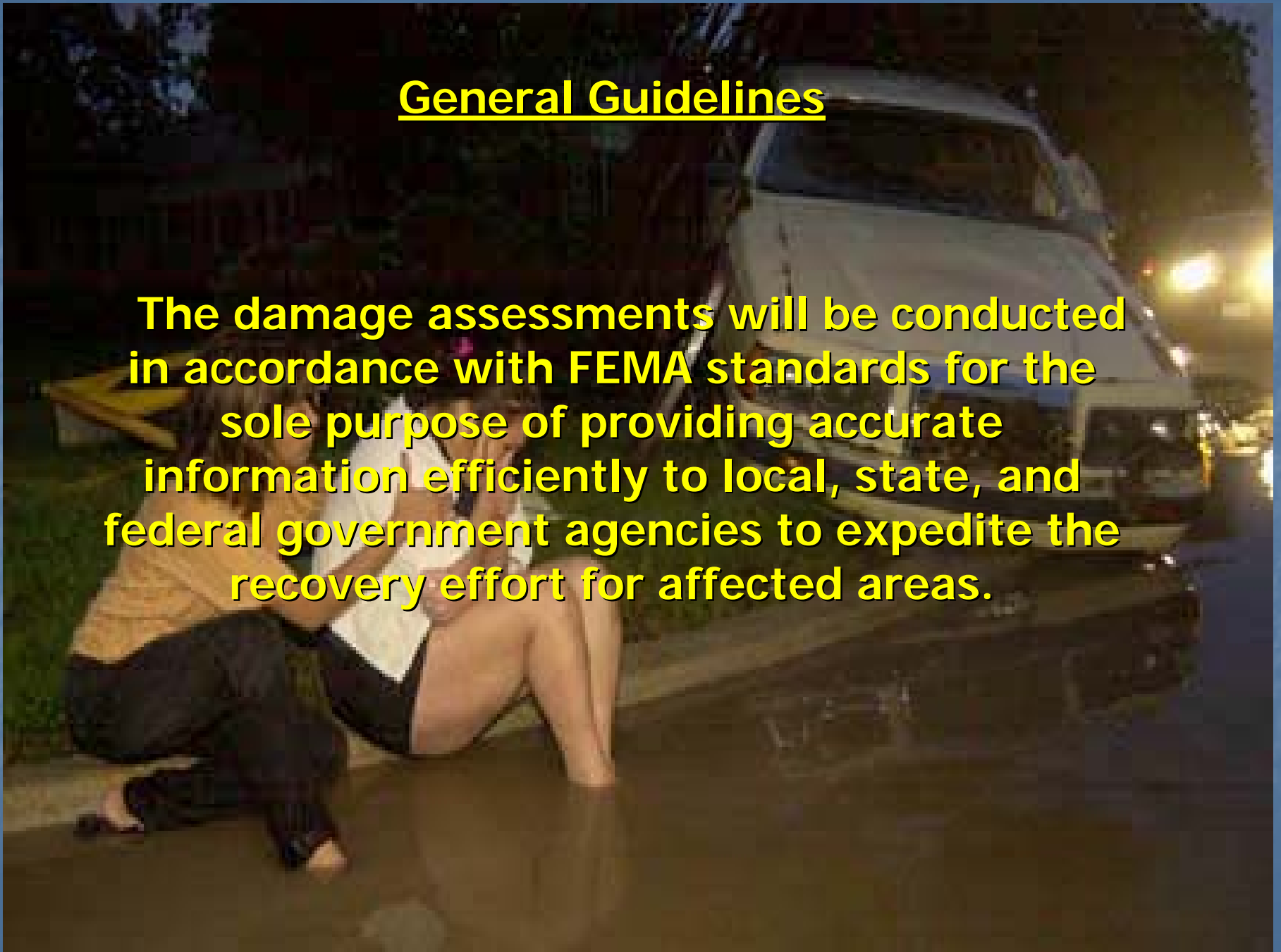
This team will create a seamless response for our division to be best prepared to assist and set a consistent standard for assessing damage on a large scale basis.



**The mission of the
Damage Assessment Team
is to provide accurate and expedited
onsite evaluations and cost estimates
of damage to residential structures,
commercial properties and
infrastructure which may have been
damaged by a natural event.**

General Guidelines

The damage assessments will be conducted in accordance with FEMA standards for the sole purpose of providing accurate information efficiently to local, state, and federal government agencies to expedite the recovery effort for affected areas.



The background of the slide is a photograph showing a large, leafless tree trunk in the foreground on the left. In the background, there is a structure that appears to be damaged or partially collapsed, possibly a roof or a wall, with some debris visible. The sky is overcast and grey.

Assessment Reports will include:

- owner information for each property,
- include visual assessments not limited to:
 - foundations,
 - supporting exterior wall members,
 - interior walls,
 - roof support structures,
 - windows, and fences,
- estimates of flood damage for each structure,
- cost estimates of property damage,
- photos of each location inspected.

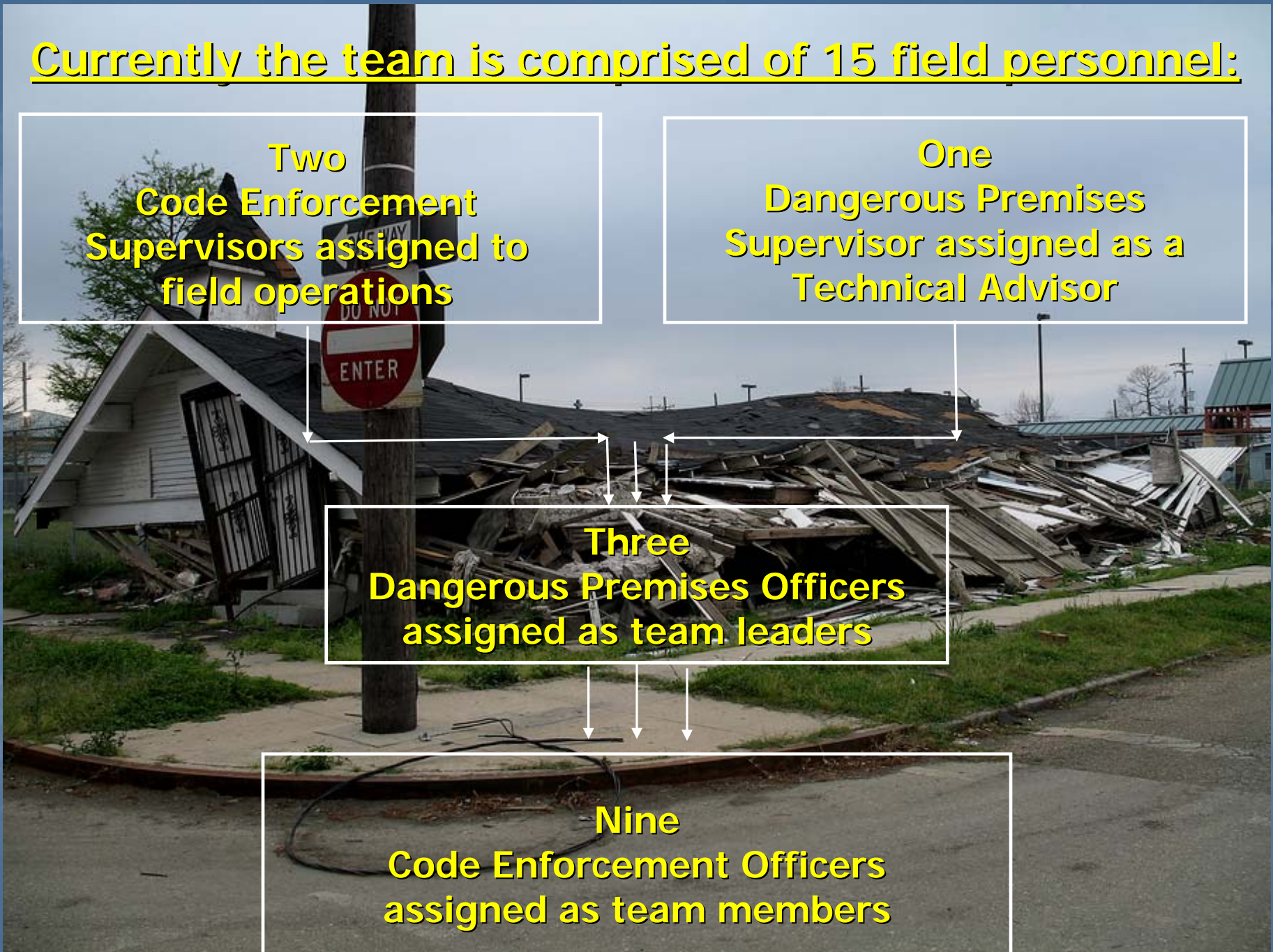
Currently the team is comprised of 15 field personnel:

**Two
Code Enforcement
Supervisors assigned to
field operations**

**One
Dangerous Premises
Supervisor assigned as a
Technical Advisor**

**Three
Dangerous Premises Officers
assigned as team leaders**

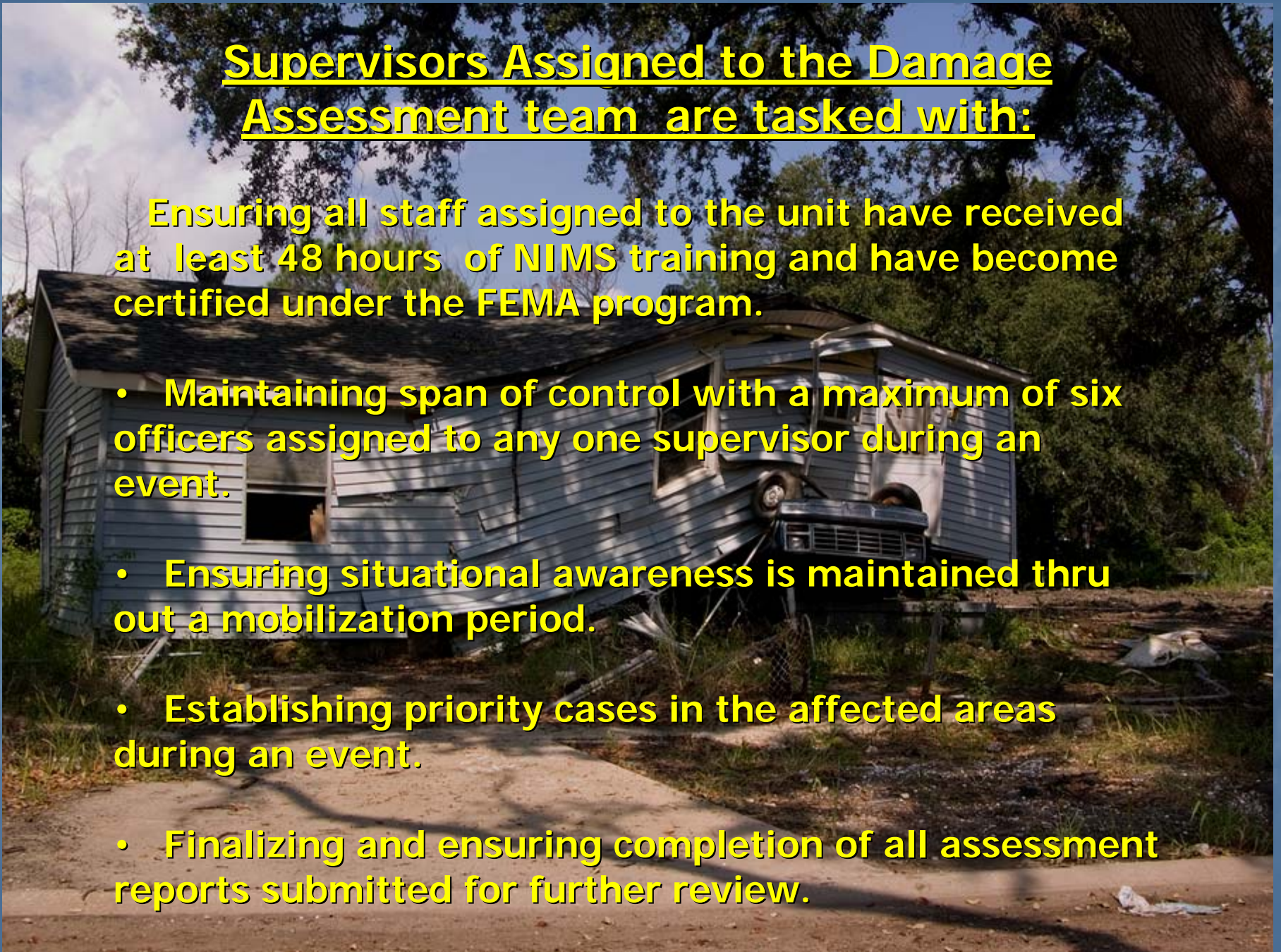
**Nine
Code Enforcement Officers
assigned as team members**



Supervisors Assigned to the Damage Assessment team are tasked with:

Ensuring all staff assigned to the unit have received at least 48 hours of NIMS training and have become certified under the FEMA program.

- Maintaining span of control with a maximum of six officers assigned to any one supervisor during an event.
- Ensuring situational awareness is maintained thru out a mobilization period.
- Establishing priority cases in the affected areas during an event.
- Finalizing and ensuring completion of all assessment reports submitted for further review.



Dangerous Premises officers assigned as Team leaders are assigned the following responsibilities:

- Ensuring that staff rosters are up to date with current contact information.
- Keeping an up to date list of team members on - call status during an expected mobilization.
- Ensuring team members are up to date with any and all training requirements.
- Ensuring that all team members have the appropriate equipment assigned for the task at hand.



Team Member responsibilities and duties:

- Are responsible for door to door site inspections of affected properties that have been identified as receiving some type of damage.
- Are responsible for accurately reporting and documenting all findings electronically on assigned reporting tools.
- Are required to be available within 2 hours notice when contacted and placed on 'available call' status.
- Are responsible for reporting unsafe conditions to supervisors.





QUESTIONS?